

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus for printing an image based on image data, which receives, from an external apparatus, print content description data including information on a layout of an image described in a print content description language, and which prints the image, said printing apparatus comprising:

a priority decision unit operable to decide whether which to prioritize, a quality of the image at the time of printing or a speed of processing of the image data of the image, based on the print content description data including information on layout instructions for printing the image, the print content description data being transmitted from the external apparatus and received by said printing apparatus;

a print data generation unit operable to generate print data for causing said printing apparatus to print data including the image, based on the following: (1) the print content description data, (2) the decision made by said the priority decision unit, and (3) the image data that is obtained from the external apparatus when the image data of the image laid out based on one of the layout instructions that is included in the print content description data is located outside of said printing apparatus; and

a printing unit operable to perform printing based on print the print data generated by said the print data generation unit.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in a case where a plurality of images are arranged in a sheet, and the print content description data indicates that the plurality of images are arranged in the sheet to be printed, said the priority decision unit decides to prioritize the speed of processing of the image data rather than the quality of each of the plurality of images at the time of printing, and said the print data generation unit generates the print data based on the said decision made by said the priority decision unit.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in a case where a plurality of images are arranged in a sheet, and the print content description data indicates that (i) the plurality of images are arranged in the sheet to

be printed; printed and (ii) each of the plurality of images is to be printed at a the number of pixels smaller than a predetermined number of pixels, said the priority decision unit decides to prioritize that the speed of processing of the image data should be prioritized rather than the quality of said each of the plurality of images at the time of printing, and the said print data generation unit generates the print data based on the said decision made by said the priority decision unit.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in a case where: 1) where (1) a plurality of images are arranged in a sheet; 2) sheet, (2) the print content description data indicates that: i) that (i) the plurality of images are arranged in the sheet to be printed, printed and (ii) each of the plurality of images is to be printed at a the number of pixels smaller than a predetermined number of pixels; pixels, and (3) the plurality of images are different from one another, said the priority decision unit decides to prioritize that the speed of processing of the image data should be prioritized rather than the quality of said each of the plurality of images at the time of printing, and said the print data generation unit generates the print data based on the said decision made by said the priority decision unit.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in a case where the print content description data indicates that the image is to be printed at a the number of pixels smaller than the a predetermined number of pixels, said the priority decision unit decides to prioritize that the speed of processing of the image data should be prioritized rather than the quality of the image at the time of printing, and said the print data generation unit generates the print data based on the said decision made by said the priority decision unit.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein when said the priority decision unit decides to prioritize the speed of processing of the image data rather than the quality of the image at the time of printing, and both the image data of high resolution and the image data of low resolution are generated for the image, said the print data generation unit generates the print data based on the image data of low resolution.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein when said the priority decision unit decides to prioritize the speed of processing of the image data rather than the quality of the image at the time of printing, said the print data generation unit generates the print data by partly skipping a portion of the plurality of plural steps taken in processing the image data.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein when said the priority decision unit decides to prioritize the speed of processing of the image data rather than the quality of the image at the time of printing, and Joint Photographic Experts Group format is used as a format of the image data, said the print data generation unit generates the print data by decoding only a Direct Current component of the image data.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method of printing an image with a printing apparatus-based on image data, which receives, from an external apparatus, print content description data including information on a layout of an image described in a print content description language, and which prints the image, said method comprising:

a priority decision step of deciding whether to prioritize a quality of the image at a time of printing or a speed of processing of the image data of the image, based on the print content description data including information on layout instructions for printing the image, the print content description data being transmitted from the external apparatus and received by the printing apparatus;

a print data generation step of generating print data for causing the printing apparatus to print data including the image, based on the following: (1) the print content description data, (2) the decision made in said deciding the priority decision step, and (3) the image data that is obtained from the external apparatus when the image data of the image laid out based on one of the layout instructions that is included in the print content description data is located outside of the printing apparatus; and

a printing step of performing printing with the printing apparatus based on the generated print data generated in the print data generation step.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for printing an image with a printing apparatus based on image data, which receives, from an external apparatus, print content description data including information on a layout of an image described in a print content description language, and which prints the image, said computer program causing a computer to execute the following steps a method comprising:

a priority decision step of deciding whether which to prioritize, a quality of the image at a the time of printing or a speed of processing of the image data of the image, based on the print content description data including information on layout instructions for printing the image, the print content description data being transmitted from the external apparatus and received by the printing apparatus;

a print data generation step of generating print data for causing the printing apparatus to print data including the image, based on the following: (1) the print content description data, (2) the decision made in said deciding the priority decision step, and (3) the image data that is obtained from the external apparatus when the image data of the image laid out based on one of the layout instructions that is included in the print content description data is located outside of the printing apparatus; and

a printing step of performing printing with the printing apparatus based on the generated print data generated in the print data generation step.